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A Soviet agent?

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was making a rare, personal visit to the thriving Texas community.

It was a day not unlike so many other late summer days in Los Angeles. Sept. 10, 1959, was warm and sticky. The sky was brown with smog, and there was just a hint of autumn in the air.

Newspaper headlines on the courthouse steps told of the Dodgers clinching their first National League pennant since moving to the West Coast.

Inside the building, a slight, pale 20-year-old Marine private was applying for a passport. He wasn't concerned with the Dodgers. He was

SHIP CASE

That day was to be his last. He was to be discharged from the service. For his was a "hardship" case. His sailing money needed him at home in Fort Worth, Texas.

Then, that he was applying for a passport.

The nervous young man completed the passport application forms, then raised his hand and began reciting the required oath: "I, Lee Harvey Oswald, swear . . ."

FOUR YEARS LATER

It was another warm, sunny day in late November four years later. The locale was different. Now, the sun was bright over Dallas. The Dodgers had won another pennant, but this time the newspaper headlines told of a more important event:

President John F. Kennedy

Dallas was in a festive mood. Thousands of enthusiastic well-wishers lined the route of the President's motorcade. But there was one among them who was not a party to the gaiety.

HE SAT ALONE

He sat alone near a window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, and like the milling, happy throngs below he waited. But there was no smile on his face.

Lee Harvey Oswald was in a hurry again.

Four years had passed since Oswald obtained a passport in Los Angeles. What occurred during that relatively short time span? Where did Oswald go? What did he do?

A young Marine applying for a passport . . . a shadowy figure lurking in ambush. What is the secret of those mysterious four years in the life of Lee Harvey Oswald?

SOME ANSWERS

Edward Ellis Smith of Palo Alto, a former security intelligence officer for the Army, State Department and Central Intelligence Agency who spent many years in Moscow, has provided some plausible answers to the Oswald riddle.

He has analyzed the known facts about Oswald and interpreted them in light of his special training and experience. After tracing Oswald's movements those four years, Smith has concluded the ex-Marine was a trained Soviet agent.

But when he allegedly triggered the shots that fateful day in Dallas that took the life of the President of the United States, Oswald was acting under the influence of a lull in his life, Smith believes.

The act was committed, being this time a service dispute was behind the Kennedy assassination. Smith believes.

OWN CONCLUSIONS

Smith emphasizes his conclusions are his own. He had no outside assistance from former associates in the government or exploited for propaganda purposes.

Findings have not been substantiated by the Warren Commission, the FBI or the Secret Service.

Smith, who was the State Department's first full-time security officer at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, begins tracking Oswald's movements that smoggy day in Los Angeles.

His passport approved, Oswald returned to the Tustin Marine Air Base. The next day, Sept. 11, 1959, he received his "hardship" discharge and returned home to Fort Worth. He didn't stay there very long.

ON FREIGHTER

On about Oct. 1, a freighter sailed out of the harbor at New Orleans into the gulf on its way to Europe. Oswald was one of the passengers aboard.

Two weeks later, Oswald was an avowed American deserter, was in Moscow. On Oct. 1, after only two days in what Smith describes as a "new environment . . . an unknown, gigantic, unnerving city," Oswald petitioned the Supreme Soviet, the highest legislative body, for Soviet citizenship.

This was a "remarkable event," in Smith's judgment. He explains, "Oswald must have known to whom his petition was to be addressed. Someone must have helped him in preparing the petition's Russian or English text . . . he was being championed by someone, and that someone must have been in-

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Finally, in Moscow, Oswald's waiting came to an end. On Oct. 31, he appeared at the American Embassy and announced he had applied for Soviet citizenship.

The next day, Oswald held a press conference at the Metropole Hotel, which Smith says would have been impossible to set up without Soviet help, to explain his defection to the Reds.

On Nov. 2, he returned to the American Embassy and completed an affidavit affirming his "allegiance" to the Soviet Union and left his American passport behind.

These events indicate to Smith that the Soviet propagandists were in control at the moment and were bent on exploiting the situation.

PUBLICITY HALTED

But somehow, the intelligence people, knowing Oswald was familiar with U.S. air defense, radar, electronics, call signs, codes, cyphers and sensitive installations in Japan, must have gained control from the propagandists, Smith believes.

He notes all publicity about Oswald's defection and his press conference were suddenly suppressed.

"They informed him citizenship would not be formally granted, and then they had someone inform our embassy that he would not be made a Soviet citizen," Smith relates.

"The next step was to get him out of Moscow, out of sight . . ."
(Next: Oswald's life in Minsk)

APR 14 1964